Monsanto

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DATE : February 13, 1975

SUBJECT : Aroclor 1260

REFERENCE :

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TO : F. J. Fitzgerald - B3SA

Dr. Renate Kimbrough of the Center for Disease Control, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, recently completed a rat feeding study in which female rats solely were fed 100 ppm Aroclor 1260 for two years. Cancerous liver cells were observed in approximately 8% of the rats exposed.

This effect was not observed in a two year study (completed in 1971) of male and female rats by Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories for Monsanto, therefore, Dr. Kimbrough's findings were totally unexpected.

Reconciliation of the different results of the two studies is extremely difficult. Not enough data is available to draw specific conclusions. In general, the Cancer Institute and others like to see at least two animal species. The observed difference could be due to the difference in the rat strains used.

To establish the significance of this new information to the current polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) applications, a program has been developed which includes publication of the results of the studies sponsored by Monsanto as soon as possible; the completion of an employee exposure study already underway and the use of a cancer specialist to assess the significance of the available information.

Additional animal feeding studies undoubtedly will be required to clarify the status of Aroclor 1260 and other PCBs currently in use. We no longer produce Aroclor 1260 in the USA, but do continue to produce relatively small quantities at Newport, UK.

As the information is developed, we plan to review it with representatives of appropriate groups such as the National Cancer Institute, Environmental Protection Agency, Food and Drug Administration and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. We will maintain contact with Dr. Kimbrough and others in HEW who are continuing work on PCBs and other chemicals.

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